

Title I Preschool



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High Quality Preschool Is Important

- Intensive, high quality preschool programs close much of the early achievement gap for lower-income children (Barnett, 1998)
- PreK provides learning experiences that enable children to meet challenging academic standards

DOE Guidance A-3

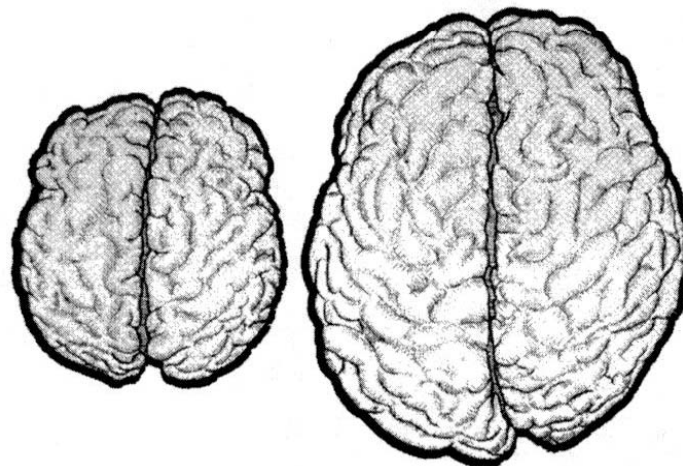
Benefits of High-Quality Early Education

- Increased achievement test scores
- Improved behavior and attitudes
- Decreased grade retention
- Decreased special education
- Decreased crime & delinquency
- Increased high school graduation
- Increased language acquisition

www.clasp.org

Important Connections are Made Prior to School-Entry

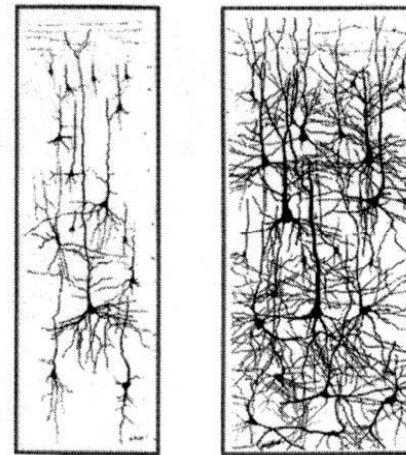
90% of brain growth occurs before kindergarten



Newborn

6 Year old

Newborn brain size compared to that of a 6-year-old brain



Newborn

6 Year old

Newborn neural networks compared to networks of a 6-year-old

Source: Paul Lombroso, "Development of the cerebral cortex. VI. Growth Factors I." Journal of the American Academy of child and Adolescent Psychiatry 37(6): 674-675, 1998.

North Carolina Children

- Percent of Poor Children: 21.9%
- Percent of 3 & 4 Year Olds Not Enrolled in Preschool: 48.1%
- Percent of Poor 3 & 4 Year Olds Not Enrolled in Preschool: 61.8%
- Percent of 4th Graders Reading Below Grade Level: 70%
- Percent of 4th Graders Below Grade Level in Math: 60%

NCLB: Implications for Programs

- NCLB set-aside and funding requirements for SEAs and LEAs
 - As the number of schools in improvement increases, the overall amount of Title I funds available for preschool may diminish
 - Schools may need to redirect resources to concentrate on the primary grades, in which children are being tested
 - Alternatively, schools may recognize the importance of early learning for closing the achievement gap and may choose to invest resources in early education directly or as part of a school improvement plan
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Can Title I fund PreK?

■ YES

A school that is eligible for a schoolwide program under this section may use funds available under this part to establish or enhance prekindergarten programs for children **below the age of 6**, such as Even Start programs, or Early Reading First programs

Section 1114(c)

Use of Title I Funds

- “To be allowable under Federal awards, costs must meet the following general criteria: a. Be **necessary and reasonable** for proper and efficient performance and administration of Federal Awards.”
 - A cost is reasonable if, “the cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the operation of the governmental unit or **the performance of the Federal award.**” (*OMB Circular A-87*)
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Funding

- School Allocations
 - Operates as Schoolwide
 - District Set-Asides
 - Operates as Targeted Assistance
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Funding Options

- Title I PreK
 - Uses Title I dollars only
- Blended PreK
 - Uses Title I dollars with other PreK dollars
 - Title I contribution determined by % of Title I children in each PreK class
- Dual Enrollment
 - Uses Title I dollars with More At Four dollars

Dual Enrollment: Title I PreK & More At Four

- Eligibility requirements for both programs must be met with Title I eligibility criteria being considered first
 - This is not “supplanting,” since More At Four funds are only intended to cover 50% of program costs
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Eligibility: Schoolwide vs Targeted Assistance

- **Schoolwide** – all children in the attendance area of that school
- **Targeted Assistance** – children who are in the district who are failing or at risk of failing to meet the state performance standards

DOE Guidance D-5 & D-6

Eligibility

- On the basis of multiple, educationally-related, objective criteria established by the LEA, such as teacher judgment, interviews with parents, and developmentally appropriate measures
 - Income of the family is allowable for the purposes of prioritizing when Title I funds are insufficient to serve all eligible preschool children
- 1115(b)(1)(B)
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Age Eligibility

- Birth to the age the LEA provides elementary education; therefore, **children who are younger than the age of five by the kindergarten eligibility cut off date - August 31** - in North Carolina are eligible

Section 1115(b)(1)(A)(ii)

Children With Disabilities

- Children with disabilities who otherwise meet the entrance requirements for PreK, can be considered for enrollment, but do not receive preference in the enrollment process

Title I Preschool Requirements

- Meet Head Start Education Performance Standards
 - Include a parental involvement component
 - Title I programs using an Even Start model must integrate ECE, adult literacy or adult basic education, and parenting education into a family literacy program and must comply with Even Start requirements
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Staff Qualifications

- “Highly qualified” does not apply to NC PreK teachers; however, according to the SBE, NC PreK teachers must have Birth-Kindergarten Licensure or PreK Add-On Certificate
- Paraprofessional requirements do apply to Title I PreK assistants

DOE Guidance E-2

Curriculum

- Comprehensive, research-based
 - Aligned with NC early learning standards (*Foundations*)
 - On the state-approved list beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, particularly since the list will be referenced as a part of Title I monitoring. The list of approved curricula can be found at:
<http://www.osr.nc.gov/whatsNew/index.asp>
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Early Learning Standards

- “Foundations” is an important book that provides early learning standards for children in North Carolina ages three, four, and five
 - Foundations is a guide for teachers, administrators, families, and others who work with preschool children
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Foundations is organized by...

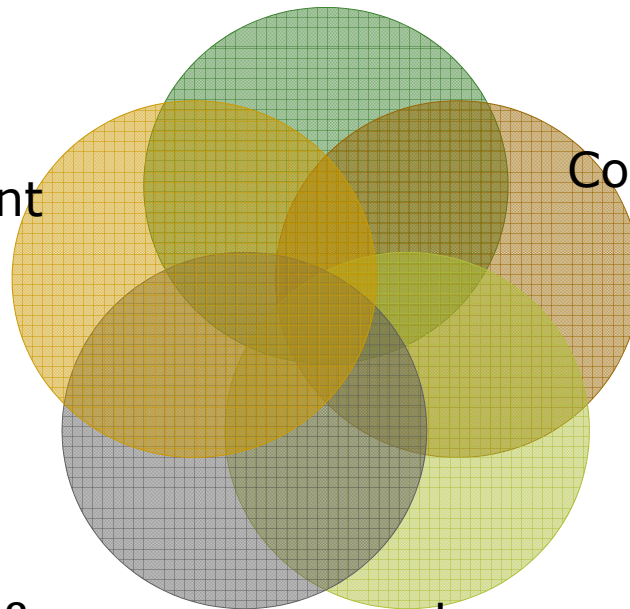
Approaches to Learning

Emotional &
Social Development

Cognitive Development

Health &
Physical Development

Language Development
& Communication



Where to Find Foundations

- Copies can be purchased at 1-800-663-1250.
 - PDF available on website
 - <http://www.osr.nc.gov>
Click on Educator Resources; click on *Foundations*; click on downloads
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Transition

- Schoolwide programs must include plans for assisting with transition
- Targeted programs must coordinate with and support transition efforts of regular education program

DOE Guidance D-8 & D-9

Parent Involvement

- All provisions in 1118 apply to PreK except discussion of the school-parent compact at parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools

DOE Guidance F-2

And Why Do We Do All This???



For the Children, Of Course!!!

Office of School Readiness: Mission Statement

To prepare children for school success through high-quality early education.

OSR Supports Preschool Programs

- Even Start Family Literacy
 - Head Start State Collaboration Office
 - More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program
 - Preschool Exceptional Children
 - Title I Preschool
 - Head Start (Collaboration Office)
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Resources

- Serving Preschool Children Under Title I, Non-Regulatory Guidance @ www.ed.gov
 - Teaching Our Youngest @ www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html. or
call 1-877-EDPUBS or 1-800-USALEARN
 - Head Start Program Performance Standards @ www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/performance/index.htm
 - Office of School Readiness @ www.osr.nc.org
 - Title I Preschool Consultant: Carla Garrett @ carla.garrett@ncmail.net; cell: 336.504.2037
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